

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 344

Expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of the Republic of India and the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir should take immediate steps to remedy the situation of the Kashmiri Pandits and should act to ensure the physical, political, and economic security of this embattled community.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2006

Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Mr. CROWLEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of the Republic of India and the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir should take immediate steps to remedy the situation of the Kashmiri Pandits and should act to ensure the physical, political, and economic security of this embattled community.

Whereas the Pandits constitute the Hindu minority that has lived in Kashmir for over 5,000 years;

Whereas the population of Pandits in Kashmir has dwindled from 400,000 in 1989 to about 8,000 today, with others having fled to refugee camps in Jammu or dispersed in northern India;

Whereas the Pandits have been under constant threat from Islamic militants operating in Kashmir and crossing the Line of Control from Pakistan into Kashmir;

Whereas the Kashmiri Pandit community has been targeted by Islamic militants who are promoting an agenda of ethnic cleansing;

Whereas since military and terrorist infiltration and ethnic cleansing campaigns began in 1990, Pandits have been forced to flee Kashmir for their own safety;

Whereas hundreds of civilians and officials from the Pandit community, a sizeable number considering their small population, have been killed and innocent lives continue to be subject to insecurity and uncertainty with an ongoing danger for unprovoked attacks;

Whereas almost two decades later, the conditions for Pandits stay unchanged and the situation in Kashmir remains volatile;

Whereas the Government of India and the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir must discuss practical solutions in order to improve the situation for Pandits in Kashmir today and create the necessary conditions under which Pandits may begin to return to their rightful land;

Whereas the Government of India and the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir must engage in comprehensive dialogue with the Kashmiri Pandits both residing in Kashmir, as well as in refugee camps, to address their security concerns as well as their economic and political concerns; and

Whereas in the interest of humanity and stability in the South Asia region and throughout the world, the United States and the international community must recognize

the plight of the Pandit community and urge India to take immediate steps to restore peace to the Pandits: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) Congress condemns the human rights viola-
4 tions committed against Kashmiri Pandits in the
5 strongest terms;

6 (2) it is the sense of Congress that the Govern-
7 ment of the Republic of India and the State Govern-
8 ment of Jammu and Kashmir should take immediate
9 steps to remedy the situation of the Kashmiri
10 Pandits and should act to ensure the physical, polit-
11 ical, and economic security of this embattled commu-
12 nity; and

13 (3) Congress supports mutual discussions be-
14 tween the Government of India and the State Gov-
15 ernment of Jammu and Kashmir to achieve a peace-
16 ful and equitable solution to the Kashmiri conflict
17 that is acceptable to the Kashmiri Pandits while en-
18 suring that they are a part of the ongoing dialogue.

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